



**Fw: Observations from Libby Meetings**  
**Carol Campbell to:**  
**Cc: "Judy Hansen"**

*Libby  
tox assessment*



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Deborah McKean

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Deborah McKean  
**Sent:** 05/14/2011 08:32 PM EDT  
**To:** Carol Campbell  
**Subject:** Re: Observations from Libby Meetings

BTW -

Sometimes it takes a bit of reflection to see the forest for the trees... Turns out, there is really no difference between the air quality of the residences and the schools. The only difference between on risk est and the other is time... (duration of exposure). Would not spread that around just yet....

Deborah McKean, PhD  
Technical Assistance Unit Chief  
Superfund Program Support  
U.S. EPA Region 8  
Office: 303-312-6178  
Cell: 303-579-4371  
mckean.deborah@epa.gov  
Carol Campbell

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Carol Campbell  
**Sent:** 05/13/2011 08:06 PM EDT  
**To:** Deborah McKean  
**Subject:** Fw: Observations from Libby Meetings

James Woolford

----- Original Message -----

**From:** James Woolford  
**Sent:** 05/13/2011 07:35 PM EDT  
**To:** Carol Campbell  
**Cc:** "Betsy Southerland" <southerland.elizabeth@epa.gov>; Barnes Johnson  
**Subject:** Fw: Observations from Libby Meetings

Carol.

something to discuss in KC. See below.

Jim Woolford, Director  
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
US EPA  
Mathy Stanislaus

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Mathy Stanislaus  
**Sent:** 05/10/2011 10:05 PM EDT  
**To:** James Woolford; Barnes Johnson; Lisa Feldt; Elizabeth Southerland  
**Cc:** Barry Breen  
**Subject:** Observations from Libby Meetings

## Observations and thoughts from Libby Community Meetings

### Toxicology/Risk Assessment

- Indoor Air Sampling

As I understand it we have not been able to discern between indoor air contributions from outdoor ambient "cross contamination", and asbestos that have been trekked into a home. It seems to me that as we do indoor air sampling we need to figure out the contribution from current activities of trekking indoors, current ambient contribution and separate out asbestos indoors from pre-cleanup activities that remain indoors- e.g., in carpets. Given the high proportion of indoor contribution to the "example" cumulative risk assessment - more precision of this would be very important in preparing the full blown cumulative risk assessment.

- Libby top soil and the presence of LA

The use of top soil from within the Libby valley that could contain low background levels was cited as one potential reason for the higher ABS in 2007/2008, in addition to difference in methods, and a wetter season in 2009, (I wasn't aware that 2009 topsoil came from outside the valley)

- Background sampling

A few people asked whether EPA would cleanup below background, if the background sampling that will be done this summer showed background risk greater than EPA's risk rank/threshold. We essentially punted by saying we'll have to await the sampling results.

- 2007/2008 cleanups

Whether additional cleanups are going to be necessary for the previously cleaned homes was raised a number of times. Jim noted that it is premature to come to that conclusion.

- 1990 Ambient air quality data

A few people asked the source of the 1990 ambient air quality data.

### /SAB Membership

A number of members of the Lincoln County Health Board stated that they wanted to nominate Dr. Black to the SAB to review the LA asbestos toxicity studies. (This request seemed a bit orchestrated to me.) In addition, they asked for letters for support by the Senators and Congressman's offices. They also asked whether EPA would support Dr. Black. Jim and I noted that we had a process for nomination that included examining whether nominees had conflicts of interest. Given Dr. Black's personal involvement in this matter, I don't see how he could serve as an unbiased member of the SAB. I suggest that we get information out to the Board laying out the requirements and, specifically, the conflict of interest requirements before we are requested by Senators and Congressman's offices.

### Cleanup

The most frequent complaint I heard was the replacement top soil not being adequate to grow grass. Apparently, in some circumstances the top soil had too of high ph and efforts taken to reduce the ph took time and money by homeowners. (Apparently, the contractor providing replacement topsoil was required to test ph but this requirement failed to prevent this). This appeared to be one of the primary reasons for homeowners declining to have their homes cleaned. Apparently this was the reason for the Mayor's quote in the AP article. To a lesser degree some people claimed that the cost and effort of watering the grass was a reason for the grass not growing, and the lose of trees/shrub were other reasons for some residents declining to have their yards cleaned. I did not hear one complaint about the process of removing the old topsoil. While the Region and contractor are looking to remedy the circumstances of inadequate topsoil, and better grass seeds, I suggested to Jim Martin and the regional folks that EPA should develop outreach materials (similar to other materials prepared for the meeting, e.g., yardwork, wood for fires) and do aggressive outreach to address the issue of adequate topsoil as part of the door-to-door campaign this summer. A couple of thoughts: can we provide a bump up in landscape quality, and provide for periodic maintenance for a year as an inducement? Could volunteers from VISTA help in this effort?

Getting the 600 homeowners who have not yet given permission to clean their properties.

I personally made a plea to Lincoln County Health Board, the business folks, city council and mayor for their assistance in reaching out to them. I underscored the importance of local voices to convince the holdout property owners. One potential tactic that seemed to resonate is to use peer pressure and the potential for cross contamination as the basis for convincing more folks. We should follow-up to engage these groups to participate in the outreach in some way.

A few people raised the issue of increased EPA oversight of contractors performing the home cleanup .

Mathy Stanislaus  
USEPA Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste & Emergency Response